

German Money Fails in Effort to Purchase Labor Movement

The Labor News of Worcester, Massachusetts, Prints an Amazing Story

Among the most important incidents of the week was the circulation of a story to the effect that a conspiracy had been formed to buy up leading officials in the Longshoremen's Union with the idea of causing strikes so as to tie up the shipping industry in New York and Boston ports.

Implicated in the deal and acting as representative of the German government is one Matthew Cummings of Boston, said to be prominent in society circles, and also known to be strongly opposed to the manner in which this country is favoring the allies and especially England in the present conflict.

Cummings, it is reported, became acquainted with President O'Connor and Secretary Dempsey of the Longshoremen's Union through Dennis D. Driscoll, former secretary of the Massachusetts State Branch of the A. F. of L., and in due time outlined the plan which he had in mind in order to come to the aid of the German government.

The plan as reported was to agitate for improved conditions among the longshoremen at Boston, New York and other Atlantic ports, which, if refused, would bring about strikes.

This, it was pointed out, would tie up the shipping industry and the millions of dollars' worth of munitions of war manufactured in this country could not find their way to the allies—a point which would prove greatly favorable to the German government.

It was evident that Cummings failed to measure up his men, as in Messrs. Driscoll, O'Connor and Dempsey, he approached men of unstinted honesty and integrity; men who have grown gray in the service of the labor movement, and who shun even such attractive things as German millions.

Either for personal gain or hatred for the English government prompted Cummings to take an awful risk, and naturally in order to carry out his nefarious scheme turned toward men influential in labor circles.

Stories emanating from Bridgeport to the effect that labor leaders had felt for German money, furnished an important incentive, but in this he found himself greatly mistaken. Like the Bridgeport men who cleared themselves from any wrong doing, so were the Boston men, prepared to resist any temptation.

As told in the press reports, after the scheme had been all planned out by Cummings, the Department of Labor at Washington was notified which was followed by an investigation, and which has resulted in the present accusation against Cummings.

The excitable manner in which he acted, and the conflicting statements made by Cummings when accosted by newspaper reporters gives reason to place confidence in the statements made by labor men.

His abusive language in referring to labor and labor men is convincing evidence that he was implicated in a gigantic scheme which, if carried out, would not only have meant an act of treason against the United States, but the destruction of a portion of the American Labor movement.

There are many of course who because of antagonism or for other reasons hold condemnatory views in the present case and who try to make themselves believe that Messrs. Driscoll, O'Connor and Dempsey are also implicated in the deal.

Even among skin deep labor men we find some who turn up their noses, and are ready to believe that the three labor

leaders made sure of their share of the million dollars found placed at their disposal, and are making a goat of Matthew Cummings.

To these we feel safe in saying that they are dead wrong. While we do not consider it an impossibility for a high labor official to go wrong, especially when a cool million is at stake it is extremely hard to convince us that anyone of the three men would so far forget themselves as to sacrifice their country and their trade unions for a lousy million.

The Boston Central Labor Union with which Mr. Driscoll is connected as a delegate, has made a searching investigation, and the matter has also attracted the attention of the executive board of the Massachusetts State Branch of the American Federation of Labor, which, we are informed, has also interested itself in the case.

From this source comes assurances that all statements made by Messrs. Driscoll, Dempsey and O'Connor can be taken as truthful, and that in bringing the matter to the attention of Secretary Wilson must be recognized as the performance of sterling service to the nation.

Such action, according to many local labor men, offers a splendid opportunity to pay a glowing tribute to the honesty and integrity of organized labor.

That American union labor is not for sale and cannot be purchased by even such power as offered by the German government was made the subject of an excellent editorial which we reproduce from the Boston Journal and which follows:

"The first and greatest officially recognized attempt during this war to tamper with American labor—not alien labor or hyphenated labor, but American labor—is the still partially hidden plot to cause a strike among the longshoremen of our chief shipping ports. This case, involving a Boston man as one of its principals, bears impressive circumstantial evidence of the powers back of it. There are still facts to be established, however, before the whole story of interference with American business can be told. Those facts will be found in good time by the federal secret service, which is now at work.

"The biggest thing here, the strongest sensation, is the stalwart proof that American labor cannot be coerced. American brains and brawn are not for sale. Europe's gold may buy a few secondary American servants, but our labor, as represented by the leaders who so promptly upset this piece of crooked business, is honest and American.

"News of the strike plot went to the Secretary of Labor at Washington as fast as wires could carry it after responsible labor leaders got wind of it.

"The plot was never completed. It was nipped in its preliminary stages. But even if it had not been placed in the market until it was ripe and ready, it never could have gone through. The four-square principles of organized labor, never better displayed than in this emergency, would have nailed it at the moment of its telling.

"There's something fine and lofty about this warm co-operation between labor and the government. It gives a new understanding of the union of the United States.

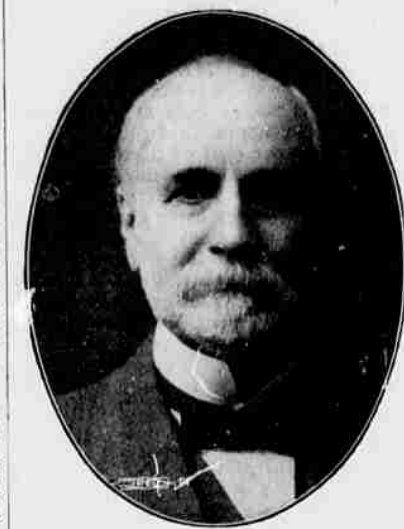
"Europe should understand that spirit of union by this time; every crooked little bargain-sale sandbagger in America should understand it.

"Here, apparently, is the end of plots to sell out the well-being of America to the highest bidder."

A. M. WARNER

APPOINTED JUDGE OF COMMON PLEAS COURT.

Only Act of Governor Willis That Pleased Labor.



A. M. Warner.

So far as organized labor is concerned, the appointment of Judge Almon M. Warner was exceedingly pleasing.

Judge Warner has been considered by labor as a fair and impartial Judge, and has made an excellent record while on the bench.

While they had no complaints against John Galvin, labor endorsed Senator Louis P. Pink for the sole reason that he was the only member in the last Legislature who voted consistently for the interest of labor, while the other members of the Legislature will learn when the next election for Representative comes around.

BUILDING SUB-CONTRACTS

Mercantile Building—Extensive addition to and improvements in building on the northeast corner of Fourth and Race streets. Owner, the H. & S. Pogue Co.; architects, Harry Hake and Chas. H. Kuck, Telephone Building, Cincinnati. O. Additional contracts awarded as follows: Brick and terra cotta work, the David Hummel Building Co.; plumbing, Thos. Dyer; cement, crushed stone and general building material, the Moores-Coney Co.; ornamental iron, L. Schreiber & Sons Co.; tile floors, the Cassini Mosaic Co.; showcase wood work, the Robert Mitchell Furniture Co.; plastering, George Schiear. Contract for ten elevators was awarded to the Otis Elevator Co.

Residence—A two-story residence, to be built on Riverside Parkway, Briarcliff, Ft. Thomas, Ky. Owner, C. E. Harrison; architects, Weber, Werner & Adkins, Mercantile Library Building, Cincinnati, O. Contracts awarded as follows: Carpenter work, Darnell & Norton; brick work, Quinby & Lefler; cut stone, the Lawson Composite Stone Co.

HAVE 100 PER CENT UNION.

Houston, Tex.—The Moving Picture Operators' Union of this city now boasts of a 100 per cent organization, after several years of constant agitation.

Brewery Workers Notify Stolle to Unionize the Building Being Erected by Him

Or They Will Expel Him From Their Union. Regular Meeting of the Building Trades Council.

The regular meeting of the Building Trades Council was called to order by Vice-President Fisher.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

A communication from District Council No. 12, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers, naming Brothers George Carroll and L. Simpkins as delegates to the Building Trades Council in place of Brothers Robb and Dittman, was read and adopted. Brothers Carroll and Simpkins being present, they were duly obligated.

The Central Labor Council Places a Penalty on Teamsters' Union for Labor Day Row

Musicians' Union Want Automatic Pianos Removed From Picture Shows.

The rumpus between the teamsters' union and the brewery workers was brought to a close for the time being by the decree of the Central Labor Council last evening that the teamsters were in the wrong and that they must pay \$10 to the brewery workers by September 28 or stand expelled from the council after that date. That decision was given on recommendation of the council's executive board after an investigation.

Trouble between the two unions started on Labor Day when the teamsters created a scene by forcing out of the parade brewery workers in charge of display trucks and putting their own men in charge, claiming that they alone could be allowed to handle the trucks. Much bitter feeling was stirred up by the incident.

A new hard nut for the council to crack is presented in the demand the musicians are making that where automatic organs are used in movie theaters the Musicians' Union must be recognized by the employment of a union musician to sit around and "watch" the playing of the automatic, not doing anything else. The moving picture men protested loudly and strongly against the proposi-

tion, declaring it is nonsense and meant only to put the small movie shows out of business and to cause moving picture men to lose their jobs. They declared they would never consent to it and charged the musicians with being a selfish lot, willing to sacrifice others in order to benefit themselves. The council deferred action to a later date.

A telegram is to be sent to the Governor of Colorado voicing the council's request for a new trial for Labor Leader Lawson now held under a life sentence in the penitentiary of that State. This is to be in concert with other labor organizations, which will make the same request.

A resolution received from the Building Trades' Council of Milwaukee to the effect that any person not a bona-fide trade unionist delegate be excluded from the American Federation of Labor conventions was indorsed, and the officials of the American Federation of Labor will be notified of the action taken.

The committee in charge of the entertainment to be given for the relief of the starving miners and their families in the Hocking Valley coal fields of Ohio, reported that it would be impossible to give the show October 5, but that they would set a date later in that month.

BUILDING PERMITS

Residence, College Hill. Architects, Weber, Werner & Adkins, Mercantile Library Building. Owner, Mrs. Jennie Smith, 4239 Hamilton avenue.

Creamery remodelled. Tri-State Butter Co. Architect, W. Stanton Robinson, 326 Purcell avenue.

Church, school, parsonage and flat building, Baum and Kilgour streets, Cincinnati. Architect, Philip Pfeiffer, Farmers' National Bank Building, Greenville, O. Owner, St. Stephen's Church, 367 Baum street, Cincinnati. Cost, \$80,000.

THE LABOR PRESS

Jerome Jones, president of the Southern Labor Congress, held last week at Atlanta, during his opening address said:

"Also I seek to impress upon you the support and sustenance of the Labor Press, that powerful adjunct of a Cause which progresses only in the degree and to the extent that its members are educated to what real trades unionism means. The Labor Press is the beacon. How brightly it shall burn depends upon you. Every man here present should impress that fact upon his constituents back home. Maybe we do not like the editor; perhaps he is a 'squatter' and has pre-empted the task of showing you the shoals and reefs and directing you to the channels of safety. Be that as it may, the Labor Press is your only mouthpiece of your economic class. Do you give it your support? Do those who sent you hither give it their support?"—Atlanta Journal of Labor.

BUY OHIO COAL!

Gov. Willis Has Slogan on Official Stationery.

Columbus, O.—The dignity of the governor's office has been shattered! All the finely engraved envelopes going out of the executive offices now carry on the back a green stamp reading, "Buy Ohio Coal." "Dignity be hanged," said Gov. Willis. "I'm going to do all I can to help the miners in the Hocking district. If we can get the people of this state into the habit of buying Ohio-mined coal there will soon be work galore for the miners."

This is the same governor who failed to veto the Gallagher bill, which gave him a great opportunity to show his friendship for the miners; or does he mean in the above interview that he will help the operators instead of the miners?

WHAT A DIFFERENCE

Between Governor Willis and Governor Hatfield!

WEST VIRGINIA CONCERNS Not To Be Permitted To Withdraw From Compensation Fund.

Charleston, W. Va.—Governor H. D. Hatfield will sustain State Compensation Commissioner Lee Ott's ruling not to permit subscribers to the state compensation fund to withdraw and provide their own industrial insurance for injured workmen and dependents until the unprotected liability of \$750,000 against the fund, created under the old statute, has been met. He will even assemble the Legislature, if necessary, to carry his point.

Some days ago it was announced that the United States Coal and Coke Company, of MacDowell County, would ask the Supreme Court of the state to compel Commissioner Ott to permit it to withdraw as a subscriber to the fund. Ott having previously refused to consent to the withdrawal until the company had paid approximately \$17,000 designated as the coal company's share of the deficit.

In a statement tonight the State Executive declared that the responsibility for the deficit in the compensation fund under the old act was the provision limiting the premium to \$1 on the \$100 payroll and declared that the liability should be borne by all alike who were under the old law, for the reason that there was no attempt at subdivision of industries under that act.

If the present law is inadequate to wipe out the deficit, and the courts so hold, Governor Hatfield said he will ask the Legislature to amend it.

CORSET WORKERS ORGANIZED.

Bridgeport, Conn.—A. F. of L. Organizers Roach and Mrs. Scully organized the corset cutters of New Haven, Conn., last Monday. This is the third union they have organized for the Ladies' Garment Workers. They held a mass meeting Thursday night for the purpose of organizing the women working in the three corset factories that employ about 3,500 people. The A. F. of L. organizers in Bridgeport, Conn., have settled strikes involving 10,000 workers and all have secured eight hours with advance pay and recognition of shop committee of employees.

TEAMSTERS' GOOD CONTRACT.

Thurber, Tex.—After a few days' strike, Earl Ferguson, second vice-president of the Texas State Federation of Labor, and W. A. Ricks, president of Federal Labor Union, No. 11449, secured with the Texas Pacific Coal Company what they term is "the best contract for teamsters in this country," the conditions being \$2.25 per day of eight hours for teamsters; \$4.00 per day of eight hours for teamsters working their own teams; wrench inspectors, \$3.00 per day; double time for Sundays and holidays, and a satisfactory dues check-off system. Over 60 teamsters and others were benefited.